

PRE-LEARNING

FOR-KS1 (YEARS 1-2)

Building today, ready for tomorrow!

Fun, practical games and activities that build the skills children need to learn, thrive and become confident, independent learners.

1. SPEAKING & LISTENING (Oracy First)



- Barrier games
- "Tell me more" questions
- Hot seating
- Show and explain

Focus: full sentences, vocabulary, reasoning

2. LISTENING & ATTENTION



- "Do this, then that" (2-4 step instructions)
- Sound patterns (repeat & extend)
- Odd one out (listening version)
- Follow the leader (movement sequences)

Focus: working memory, focus, processing

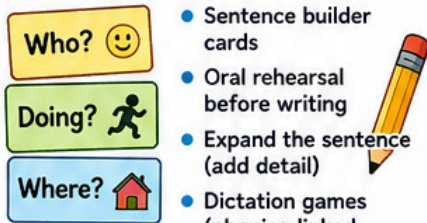
3. PHONICS & EARLY READING



- Real vs nonsense word sorting
- Sound buttons games
- Word building with letters
- Speedy blending challenges
- Spot the digraph in a sentence

Focus: automatic decoding, fluency, confidence

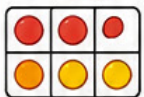
4. WRITING READINESS & SENTENCE BUILDING



- Sentence builder cards
- Oral rehearsal before writing
- Expand the sentence (add detail)
- Dictation games (phonics-linked sentences)

Focus: sentence structure, stamina, confidence

5. MATHS FLUENCY THROUGH PLAY



- Number bonds games (to 10/20)
- "Make it another way" (different representations)
- Quick-fire subitising (dot cards)
- Maths treasure hunts (shapes, numbers, patterns)
- Dice games (add, subtract, compare)

Focus: fluency, flexibility, number sense

6. MEMORY & THINKING SKILLS



- Kim's game (remember objects)
- Pattern copy and extend
- Simple strategy games (e.g. connect, match)
- "What's changed?" visual game

Focus: recall, attention, problem-solving

7. PHYSICAL & FINE MOTOR DEVELOPMENT



- Dough disco / finger gym
- Peg, tweezer and threading challenges
- Obstacle courses with instructions
- Handwriting patterns in sand or chalk

Focus: strength, coordination, control, handwriting readiness

8. SOCIAL SKILLS & LEARNING BEHAVIOURS



- Turn-taking board games
- Partner challenges (build/design together)
- "Agree or disagree" discussions
- Group problem-solving tasks

Focus: cooperation, resilience, communication

9. INDEPENDENCE & LEARNING HABITS



- "Fix it yourself" stations (resources to help)
- Routine practice games (pack, tidy, organise)
- Choice boards for tasks
- Time challenges (beat the timer!)

Focus: responsibility, self-management, independence

KEY PRINCIPLES



Keep it active and engaging



Build automaticity through repetition



Encourage talk before recording



Use short, focused bursts



Link directly to classroom learning

BIG IDEA

Pre-learning in KS1 is about moving from **play** → **structure** → **independence**